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While it would be useful, but not vital, to generalize about possible civilian casualties, it is imperative that the report should examine each North Vietnamese allegation individually. I have enclosed a selection of Hanoi's major statements which could be the basis for a first cut at the problem. Perhaps [redacted] could also be charged with providing a list of those allegations which have been reported to the International Control Commission. The analysts should examine the credibility of these charges against all relevant sources of intelligence, including intercepted letters, foreign witnesses, North Vietnamese photography and, of course, US pre- and post-strike photographs. US photography outside the immediate target area must be examined, since Hanoi's complaints often relate to such accidental destruction and the Department must know if there is any clear confirmation or refutation. The discussion should also investigate possible co-location of civilian and military installations. In addition, the evidence Hanoi has marshalled to support its claim should be analyzed. For example, the North Vietnamese have circulated pre- and post-strike ground photographs of the Thanh Hoa installation which they say was a TB sanatorium; they apparently do not have proof that it was marked with a cross on the roof, since US post-strike photographs indicate that the roof bearing the cross was destroyed in the strike. 25X1

Naturally, INR is prepared to assist in any way it is able.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

*TH*

Thomas L. Hughes

Enclosure:

As stated.

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